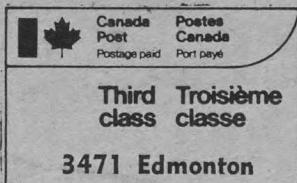


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ADV



Scandinavian Centre News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

VOL. XV No. 1

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January 1975

TOM & VERA'S 50th

ANNUAL MEETING FEB. 19

By Eileen Peterson, Secretary

There are important decisions to be made this year. It is imperative that you elect a slate of Directors which you feel will be able to handle the problems which are bound to arise in a capable and efficient manner and in your best interests. And this coming year we need SIX Directors to fill vacancies!



ERIK PEDERSEN, on the left, is seen here receiving a plaque from PETER LOUGHEED, Premier of Alberta, recently. The plaque was an Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding Service in Ethno-Cultural Activities. "This award is presented to ERIK PEDERSEN with the best wishes and congratulations of the people and Government of the Province of Alberta. Dated this second day of November, 1974." It is signed by HORST A. SCHMID, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, as well as the Premier. Mr PEDERSEN works for Eatons of Canada in Edmonton and directs and announces The Scandinavian Hour program over radio station CKUA Edmonton every second Sunday. Mr. PEDERSEN, a Dane, has been with the program ever since its origination on Oct. 26, 1952—over 22 years. Mr. PEDERSEN is also an avid executive of the Alberta Branch of The Kidney Foundation of Canada. He is and always has been an active participant in community activities.

The Centre desperately needs your interest and your assistance. You, as a shareholder, have contributed to the very fact of its existence by purchasing your Share. Why, then, does all interest seem to have ceased at this point? Any organization either has to go forward or slip backwards; it is not possible to simply stand still. And progress is a slow, up-hill battle without the interest and ideas of all those who have a share in that organization.

Let's not "let George do it" in 1975 . . . let's ALL do it! □

Past Directors' Club Formed

By Anne Sahuri

On Wed., Nov. 20, 1974, the Viking Room at the Scandinavian Centre was the scene of past directors meeting the present directors over the splendid dinner prepared by Stella.

All the past directors were invited to the dinner and approximately some 80 persons were present. Of course some of our hard working past directors have moved to different parts of the country—some have passed away—and some had something else on their agenda.

The evening was very pleasant. During the dinner the president, Harvey Hauken, in his speech, spoke of the Centre, the hopes for it and the results of committee meetings for new ideas to get more people interested and involved in the Centre and its activities. It was delightful to see all the familiar faces and recollect

Continued on Page 10

Gala Affair At Centre

DANISH COUPLE ESTEEMED BY HIGHEST IN LAND

By A. A. Kjearsgaard

Or Saturday, November 30, 1974, Thorvald and Vera Nielsen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. To honor the happy occasion, Tom and Vera held a Dinner and Dance in the Scandinavian Centre Viking Room for approximately 180 guests. The guest book was attended by Mrs. Ellen Nielsen.

The evening began with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a lovely dinner served by Mrs. Stella Kassian and her staff. Grace was said by Pastor Holger Madsen.

Following the main course, Dennis Nielsen, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, who was emceeing on behalf of his father, welcomed the guests and then asked Bruce Stetson, son-in-law from Las Vegas, to read the telegrams. There were many congratulatory messages from family and friends in Denmark, as well as Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau, Lt. Gov. Ralph A. Steinhauer, Premier Peter Lougheed, Mayor William Hawrelak, Hon. Horst A. Schmid, Hon. Robert Stanfield, Hon. Marcel Lambert and the Danish Ambassador in Ottawa, H. Hjorth-Nielsen.

Following dessert, the cutting of the cake took place which was Tom's and Vera's first "Wedding Cake", making it a very special moment.

The head table guests were introduced by families which were as follows: Elsie (daughter) and Henry Duport; Lorraine (granddaughter) and Don Cunningham; Carolyn (granddaughter) and Keith Kreamer; and grandsons Gary and Brian; all of the Ardrossan area. Betty (daughter) and Andy Kjearsgaard; Larry (grandson) and Faye Kjearsgaard of Consort, Alta.; Linda (granddaughter) and Dwight Pedersen of Gray Creek, B.C.; granddaughters Sonja of Saskatoon, Sask., and Sharon of Outlook, Sask. John (son) of Grande Prairie, John's son, Gregg, of Powell River, B.C. was unable to

Continued on Page 7



VERA and TOM NIELSEN, prominent Danish couple, celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

By Anne Sahuri
ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Scandinavian Centre Co-op Association will be held on Feb. 19, 1975, at 8 p.m. Registration will begin at 7:30 p.m. All shareholders are urged to attend.

SCANDAPADES '75

We are sorry to announce that Scandapades '75 has been cancelled. It seems though we may have an opportunity to hear and see some of the talent during some Sunday Coffee Parties which will hopefully take place early in the year.

ARCHIVES PERFORMANCES

I hope you had an opportunity to hear and see the Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic groups performing during the holiday season at the Archives. There was also a fine Scandinavian display at the Archives just before Christmas.

NEW MANAGER

We wish to extend our welcome to the new Manager of the Scandinavian Centre, Mr. Peter Elander.

GREETINGS

Happy New Year to all the readers on behalf of the Board of Directors. □

A NEW YEAR

By Leslie L. Morris
Managing Editor

Here it is another New Year—1975. Let's hope that this first year of the last quarter of this century is truly the dawning of a new era. It seems that the whole world could use a new fresh start of some kind.

It only seems like yesterday that a year ago I was advising those who would listen, to conserve the energy that is dwindling so fast. We have survived the energy crisis so far, but what about the future? Can we put politics aside and bring the people together to help each other in time of need?

We hear, not only of an energy shortage, but a food shortage as well. Surely the countries of the world are not so short sighted that they won't pool their intellect and resources to help those who may starve before another year has gone by. It is good to learn that Canada has ventured as a leader to the world in offering our wheat to help in this crisis—if we can only get it to the ports to ship it!

As I said before, we here in Edmonton are indeed fortunate to be where we are. There seems no better place in the whole world I'd rather be than right here. It's a real consolation that I chose the parents I have so that I could be where I am and not in Bangladesh, India, Africa, the Middle East, or any other place on this earth. I, for one, am indeed grateful.

Now that I've got that off my chest, as the idiom goes, let me again thank all those who help make The Scandinavian Centre News the paper that it is. We are into the 17th year of

publication of the paper, although it shows only Volume XV on the front of the paper. The first paper was actually first published Nov. 1, 1958—there obviously were a few first editions which did not have a volume number on them.

Firstly, the Board of Directors of the Scandinavian Centre must be thanked for underwriting the cost of publishing the paper each month over and above that paid for by the advertisements and donations.

Secondly, we thank all those who advertise in The Scandinavian Centre News, for the money received helps very much to keep the paper going. We only wish more businessmen would advertise in the paper.

Thirdly, we thank each and every one who donates to the paper—no matter how much. We only put the amount in the paper because some are such generous amounts we wish everyone to know, therefore the others are listed also, but no matter how much, each is appreciated tremendously and I only wish I could thank all of them personally.

Fourthly, the regular correspondents to the paper must be thanked and congratulated for faithfully sending in their information each month—even if some are a little late. Without these people, the paper would not be as personal and interesting as it is.

Fifthly, I wish to thank those who send in bits of information, news or poems from time to time. They are most welcome and are an added pleasure to the readers.

May all of you have a most wonderful 1975. □

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Christmas lights have gone out and are being taken down one by one. There must have been millions of them in this city alone, decorating buildings, streets, and trees, and we won't see their cheery, twinkling lights until the next Christmas season.

There are countless lights in the sky that twinkle and shine from season to season with such unchanging certainty that they have been used for centuries for directional guidance.

There are also human lights, millions of them around the world, that light the way for others. Some of them will fade out before another year is through. Will yours? □

We know the value of a future when we have earned it, and that of a friend when we have lost him.

Thank You for Your DONATION

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JANUARY

Linnie F. Robinson

January comes knocking at my door
Where scattered fragments of the year remain,
In tasks attempted or left undone.

And where discouragement had grown to pain.

But January pushes wide the door—
A calendar of days is in his hand;

My troubles fall like paper to the floor—
New time is Mine—the glass is full of sand.

And so I take the legacy of hours
And treadle at the waiting loom of day;
How blithely did I use the springtime up,
How prodigal of every summer way.

But now these hours in new dimensions shine
For I have learned to husband and to ply;
The world has in it so much to learn
But best of all is time again to try.

The Scandinavian Centre News

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Each member of The Scandinavian Centre receives The Scandinavian Centre News each month free for life. Non-members may subscribe at \$6.00 annually payable to the Treasurer, Scandinavian Centre and sending it to the Director, Scandinavian Centre News, Mr. Stan Hafso, 11739 - 38A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Scandinavian groups, societies, organizations, associations or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of members' names and addresses. A mailing charge of 6¢ per copy will be charged. This payment and other correspondence should be addressed to: The Scandinavian Centre News 10203 - 78 Street Edmonton, Alberta T6A 3E2

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FINNISH — Heikki Sario, 142-8745 - 165 Street, 489-6266

ICELANDIC — Leif Oddson, 6412 - 84 Street, 466-6838

NORWEGIAN — Wally K. Broen, 9560 - 111 Avenue, 474-2006

SWEDISH — Leonard Eliasson, 13011 - 135 Street, 455-9457

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Harvey Haugen, 8806 - 162 Street, 489-1171 & 425-3817

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Astrid Hope
COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 7

Torske Klubben meet.

Wednesday, January 8

Sewing Group meet at the home of Astrid Hope, 6307 103A Ave.

Saturday, January 11

Installation Dinner and Dance. Social 6-7 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Dance 9 p.m. Adults \$5.00. Children 12 and under \$3.00. Phone for tickets: 466-8461 or 466-9061.

Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2

Sports Weekend, Grande Prairie.

For bowling, curling and cross-country skiing competitors who intend to go, please phone Helge Nielson, 434-4300. Plans are being made to charter a bus.

February or March

Proposing a ski trip to Marmouth Basin. Please phone Helge (number above) if interested, or for more information.

On Dec. 6, 1974, a general meeting was held which featured the election of officers for 1975. Following the meeting, the annual Christmas Bingo party was held. There were beautiful prizes offered with the compliments of Del Melsness and Ross Fowler. Some of the larger prizes were won by Jerry Harvey (lamp), Linda Richardson (champagne) and Bob Burt (turkey). The lucky Tychsen family won no less than five prizes, of which one, also, included a turkey. Another family who hit it lucky that night was three of the Layar's. Some of the other winners included Ross Fowler, Astrid Hope, Merle Larson and others.

Selma and Sigurd Sorenson will spend Christmas with relatives at Chauvin and McLaughlin, Alta.

Bob and Lorraine Sorenson will ski in B.C. at New Years. Selma and Sigurd will look after the grandsons while their parents are away.

On Oct. 19, Janette and Bob Burt attended Bob's niece's wedding in Kelowna. Later the Burts travelled to Vancouver for Janette's niece's wedding. At the same time a family reunion had been arranged.

More travelling for the Burts—this time to Calgary for a weekend to visit their daughter, Mrs. Sharon Voloshin, for the occasion of their two grandchildren's birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hope will have Astrid's mother, Mrs. Lydia Tagseth, from Govan, Sask., as a guest for over Christmas.

Ragna Sivertsen has been travelling back and forth to

Calgary to visit her family several times and is going to fly to Ottawa to be with Ken and family for Christmas.

Edith and Cliff Johnson were saddened recently by the passing of Edith's father of Saskatoon. The members of Solglyt extend their deepest sympathy to Edith and relatives.

SONS OF NORWAY CULTURAL NEWS

A group of Sons of Norway singers were organized by Cultural Director, Astrid Hope, to participate on Dec. 22 on "Christmas at the Museum", at the Provincial Museum and Archives. They will present a special program of Norwegian Christmas carols.

The participants include children and adults dressed in their "bunads" (costumes) or Norwegian knit sweaters. Stan Hafso is conducting with Del Melsness, Wally Broen and Harry Huser supplying the instrumental background music. There will be other ethnic groups participating on the same program, also.

Norwegian language classes will be resumed again after New Year's. Instructing is Agnes Burt. At present there are about 30 enrolled—6 are children and the rest, adults—and the ages range from 8-85 years. They come from as far as Ponoka, Spruce Grove and, of course, from all sections of the city. This proves that distance is no object for people who really want to "snakke Norsk". If interested, phone Janette Burt at Devon 987-3727.

SONS OF NORWAY JULETREFEST

Mothers, fathers, grandmas and grandpas came out to the Scandinavian Centre on Sun., Dec. 15, as well as friends, to hear their youngsters sing and perform. A most entertaining and delightful program was arranged by Betty Broen for this year's annual Christmas program. There were two skits that were greatly enjoyed, put on by "Nyhus and Larson" productions. As well as in other areas, they deserve many merits for their effective backdrops and suggestive costumes used throughout. The performers received their own special applause and recognition. Here is an account of the items on the program. The emceeing was capably done by pro Anders Anderson.

1. "Jeg er saa glad hver Julekveld" — everybody joining in.
2. Accordion Solo by Mark Myrhe — "Glade Jul" (Silent Night) and "Celito Lindo".

My Trip to the West Coast

By Olaf Sveen

I finally made it—playing the accordion from coast to coast in Canada.

After I came back from Newfoundland I turned around and went to Victoria, Vancouver Island. There is a great difference between the two islands. We have to admit that the west coast is more lush and much greener, and I understand the main reason is the ocean currents.

In Newfoundland they used to say: We got no big timber here, but we got small wood. Out west they have no small wood but they got big timber.

My friend, Lew, came with me to Victoria and we spent three days there. One of the things I did was to go and pick a stone out of the Pacific, and I already have one from the Atlantic.

Continued on Page 10

Many thanks to Betty Broen who also arranged for the food, and to all the ladies who helped to prepare and set up the outstanding Pot-luck Supper.

SICK LIST

Glad to hear Irene Hovde is home and recuperating nicely after her lengthy stay in hospital.

Janette Burt is back in circulation again after a siege in the Devon Hospital. The Language Class missed you and are glad to have you back.

Doreen Melsness is back home again after an operation, and all members wish her a speedy recovery.

Orla Tychsen was in hospital briefly and reports all is favorable.

Tom Larson was in hospital lately and we're glad to hear he is able to make a flying trip to Ottawa for Christmas, too. Happy holiday, Tom!

The next correspondent is Eleanor Anderson for the February news—phone her at 488-8998.

Here's wishing all readers "Godt Nytaar" in 1975. □

DR. T. O. WALHOVD

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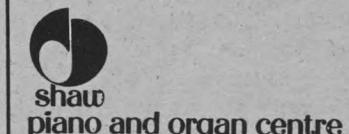
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BOOK REVIEW

AKUREYRI BLOODFLOWERS

by W.D. Valgardson

AKUREYRI — and the Picturesque North

Iceland Review has just published a new book in English titled **AKUREYRI — and the Picturesque North**. It is the latest instalment in the Iceland Review Books series.

The main text is written by Kristján fra Djúpalæk, a noted poet residing in Akureyri. The book contains a large number of photographs, most of them in colour, of scenes from Akureyri and from the District of Eyjafjördur generally. In addition, a few colour photographs from other areas in the North are included: views of places that are known for their picturesque scenery, such as Mývatnssveit.

The main text traces the history of Eyjafjördur District, from the settlement in Iceland by Helgi the Lean, to the modern city of Akureyri today. The text, as may be expected from the author, is rich in poetic vision, and focuses on the history, folkways and literature of the region. Thoroughly at home in native folklore, the writer weaves into his story many accounts of supernatural phenomena and elements from folk tales. He also traces the history and development of social movements that had their origins in the North. He is much concerned with the role of poets and cultural history generally. And he is forever aware of the contrasts of nature. In other words, he is an affectionate observer of his home region, and he looks at it from many angles.

The book is translated into English by May and Hallberg Hallmundsson.

The book consists of three sections, the first of them being the main text, accompanied by some photographs showing Akureyri of the past. The second part, and the largest, contains colour photographs from Akureyri of today, altogether 38 of them, including several foldés. The last section deals with various settlements around Eyjafjördur, nearby

This book was written by Icelandic-Canadian author W. D. Valgardson. It was named the best short story in Canada in 1971, received the President's Medal and was included in the top twenty stories in North America. Nine of the ten stories are set in Manitoba's Interlake. It is not often that local stories such as these are liked so much that less than eleven months after first being issued, they are in a third printing; however, that is what has happened.

The critics, for once, agree with the book-buying public. **Macleans** — "Bloodflowers" by W. D. Valgardson, I'd count as excellent by any standard."

Edmonton Journal — "Bloodflowers signals the arrival of a strong new voice in Canadian letters."

Vancouver Sun — "Valgardson's stories are powerful."

This book is by a Manitoba author who is rapidly developing an international reputation as a story-teller. The book has to be read to find out why.

Copies are available by sending a cheque for \$3.50 to: **Mary-Anne Bateson**, Box 1051, Gimli, Man.

If an autographed copy is desired, just write autograph on your cheque. —M.B. □

farming regions, and rugged nature. All told, the book contains 74 colour photographs by 16 photographers, both amateurs and professionals.

The advertising agency of Gisli B. Björnsson did the layout work, and the city of Akureyri cooperated in procuring photographs.

An Icelandic version of the book will be issued by Oddur Björnsson Book Publishers of Akureyri, in cooperation with Iceland Review, but that edition will be distributed exclusively by the first publishing company. The original plan called for an English edition only, there being an obvious need for such a book, but then—in

Wally K. Broen, B.Com., C.A.

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PETE NIELSEN

484-5384

A Prayer For The New Year

By Richard Beck

Not for riches do I ask,
But for guidance on the way;
For the rest which labour
earns

At the close of every day.

Not for a glimpse of unseen
stars,
But for vision do I pray,
Which sees Beauty's hidden
face

In the common tasks each
day.

Dear Mr. Morris:

I receive The Scandinavian Centre News regularly and read the paper with much interest and appreciation. I think it serves its purpose splendidly.

I enclose herewith a poem of mine, which I thought might be appropriate for publication in the coming January number. Perhaps I should add that it is included in my collection, **A Sheaf of Verses**, Winnipeg, 1966. The copyright is mine.

All is well with Mrs. Beck and myself. We send our greetings and best wishes to our many friends among your readers.

With cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Richard Beck

NEW HOTEL CHAIN

Twelve leading hotels in Norway have agreed to co-operate in a new hotel chain under the name of Inter Nor Hotels. They are located in Oslo (Grand), Alesund (Noreg), Hamar (Victoria), Haugesund (Saga), Kristiansand (Ernst), Larvik, (Grand), Lillehammer, (Victoria), Mandal (Solborg), Røros (Røros), Sarpsborg (Saga), Stavanger (KNA Ocean) and Trondheim (Prinsen). They will establish a joint office, which will deal with marketing, purchases and staff training.

view of the excellent text and good selection of photographs—it seemed clear that it would appeal to Icelandic readers as well.

The following works have already been published in the **Iceland Review Book** series: a book on Iceland generally, a book on the Westman Islands Eruption, and a book on Reykjavik. Simultaneously with the book on Akureyri, there will appear a book presenting sculptor Asmundur Sveinsson and his art. All of the books mentioned here are ideal gifts for friends and customers overseas, and for foreign visitors in Iceland. The already available texts have proved popular for such uses, especially on account of their high quality and artistic taste.

Copies are available from the publishers: Iceland Review, Reykjavik, Iceland at the price of \$9.95 postfree. □

Activities At Provincial Museum

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

The Galleries and Bookstore are open from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Films For Children —

1:30 p.m.

Regular Films — 2:00 p.m.

* "Middle Age: Culture of Medieval Europe" (24 min.)

"The Voyageurs" (20 min.)

Craft Demonstrations

Native Jewelry Beading in the Indian Gallery from 10:00-12:00

Spinning in the Upstairs Lounge from 1:00-4:00.

Gloria Kline will demonstrate Ukrainian Easter Egg painting in the Upstairs Lounge from 2:00-4:00.

Outdoor Nature Program

Conducted in the river valley, leaving the Museum at 1:00 and 3:00. Please wear suitable clothing.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Films For Children —

1:30 p.m.

Regular Films — 2:00 p.m.

* Medieval Knights" (22 min.)

* "Medieval Manor" (22 min.)

Open House 1:30-4:30

The work areas of Human History, Natural History and Display will be open to the public.

Craft Demonstrations

The Pleasantview rug hookers will give a demonstration in the Upstairs Lounge from 2:00-4:00.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Feature Hollywood Film —

2:00 p.m.

A story about England's heroic thief who stole from the rich and gave to the poor. (Admission is free).

Open House — 1:30-4:30

The work areas of Human History, Natural History and Display will be open to the public.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Cultural Heritage

Performance —

3:00 p.m.

"Grant McEwan Dance Division Christmas Program" — in the Auditorium.

Craft Demonstrations

Gloria Kline will demonstrate Ukrainian Easter Egg painting in the Upstairs Lounge from 2:00-4:00.

RE FILMS

* These films are on loan from the University of Alberta, Department of Extension, Educational Media Division.

FEATURE EXHIBITIONS

"Arms and Armour: The Age of Chivalry" — in the Lower Indian Gallery — opens December 20 — an excellent display of medieval swords, shields, battle axes, it includes 20 suits of armour and delightful miniatures. From the Riveredge collection in Calgary — a very special show.

"One Hundred Years of Oceanography" — in Feature Gallery #1 and #2 — HMS

Challenger studied ocean-dwelling plants and animals 102 years ago; this exhibit traces developments in studies of marine life and ocean currents. With ship models, specimens, photos.

"Christmas Mementos from Overseas" — A display in the Auditorium's Foyer — includes festive items used for Christmas in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy and the Ukraine. Also displayed are traditional gifts from these cultures.

"Treasures of the Orient" — in the Museum Foyer — a valuable collection of Chinese bronzes and jades, Japanese swords and ceremonial objects. Some pieces 3400 years old — a unique exhibition.

"Homesteading in Alberta" — in the Archives Display Cases — features an actual record book, photos and posters used to attract settlers.

MUSEUM HOURS

Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays — 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fridays — 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sundays — 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

January 1 — 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

For further information contact:

Betty Blommaert
Public Programs Officer
Extension Services Section
Provincial Museum of
Alberta
Phone 452-2150 Ext. 247 □

ENVY DON'T ENVY OTHER FOLKS

Don't think when you have troubles
That your neighbor goes scot-free

Because he shows a smiling front
And battles cheerfully.

No, Man! He, too, has troubles,
But herein the difference lies,
While you go idly moping round,
The other fellow tries.

Don't envy other people;
Maybe, if the truth you knew,
You'd find their burdens heavier far
Than is the case with you.
Because a fellow, rain or shine,
Can show a smiling face,

Don't think you'd have an easier time
If you could take his place.

'Tis hope and cheery courage
That incites one to retrieve
One's past mistakes, to start afresh,
To dare and to achieve.
So smile, and if perchance you light
The spark of hope anew
In some poor, sad and burdened heart,
All honor be to you.

VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Millie Weiss

The December meeting was chaired by Chairman Leonard Eliasson.

A speedy recovery is wished to all the lodge members who are on the sick list.

Election of officers was held. A successful year to all our officers in 1975.

Glen Eliasson, District Master, was present for the meeting and also hosted the singsong after the meeting, accompanied on the piano by Lorraine Eliasson. Thanks to the ladies for the delicious lunch.

Magnus and Betty Pearson have left for Vancouver to spend Christmas, and then on to spend some time with Gordon and family.

Don and Evelyn Johnson are holidaying in Australia. **Brian and Wendy** will meet them there and spend the holiday season with them.

COMING EVENTS

The January meeting will be held on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held at the home of Bill and Martha Kay, 11627 70 St., Edmonton, Jan. 15 at 1:00 p.m. □

Canada's Only Norwegian-Language Newspaper, "Norrlona", Kept Alive

From Ny Verd
By James L. Peterson

In 1970 Norwegian-Canadians were in danger of losing **Norrlona** (Norseman), the only Norwegian language newspaper published in Canada. The paper, published in Winnipeg, Man., was about to fold.

Then **Gunnar Warolin** appeared on the scene. **Warolin**, a native of Oslo living in Delta near Vancouver, B.C., was the owner of a Scandinavian food store who had served as a **Norrlona** correspondent for 12 years. A former steel-worker, millworker and insurance man, he liked to write for a hobby.

His life had been filled with variety because he "likes to jump into things". But there is one constant, his love of Norway and its heritage. It was that love that influenced his decision to purchase **Norrlona**. All he received in the transaction was the list of subscribers and 60 years of back issues. He later had to purchase typesetting and other equipment.

Norrlona's circulation of about 4,000 has held steady for the past four years, but the future isn't all that bright. The number of older persons who speak the language is dwindling, and while the younger generations have some interest in their Norwegian heritage, a much smaller number know the language.

DECISION

Warolin and his wife, **Lillian (Gjellum)** have no children. They have always worked together as a team. For two years after they purchased **Norrlona**, they

tried to maintain their food store business, but the two jobs were too much. And when the decision had to be made, it was the store that was sold, although **Norrlona** does not provide sufficient income to support them.

During the past two years **Warolin** has been "semi-retired", as the newspaper takes much of his time. He's done some carpentry on the side and recently has helped to manage **Scandinavia House**, a restaurant in Surrey owned by his friend, **Sven Svensk**. This summer a new **Scandinavia House** was opened in Port Coquitlam, and **Warolin** became its manager.

Norrlona's editorial policy includes "everything from birth to death," **Warolin** says. To give news from Norway he clips from Norwegian newspapers. He gets "heavy" input from the prairie provinces, and takes care of the B.C. news himself.

Regular columnists include **Hadrew Gilstein**, 70, originally from Romsdal, Norway, now living in Victoria. He writes a historical column. The Winnipeg correspondent is **Mrs. Thingelstad**, originally from Tonsberg. **Paul Jacobsen** and **Asgerd Lein**, formerly of Oslo, do fishing and gardening columns. History of Scandinavians in B.C. is the expertise offered by **Jorgen Dahlie**, a professor at the University of British Columbia. **Norrlona** also features sports coverage from Norway.

Most of the advertising

The Swedish-Canadian Newspaper "Canada Tidningen": A Note On Its Origin

By Dr. Alexander Malycky
The Research Centre for Canadian Ethnic Studies
University of Calgary

In this article "Canadian Tidningen", this newspaper's last editor, **Helge V. Pearson**, points out that this Winnipeg based Swedish-Canadian newspaper

"started publication as a weekly in 1892, but the faded pages of the 1892 yearbook read 'Vol. VI', which means that its year of birth was actually 1886, although to my knowledge no copies of these first years—from 1886 to 1892—are in existence today. Therefore, 1892 shall be regarded as its 'official' year of birth as a weekly, since it

must have been published rather irregularly up until that time." (1)

Subsequently, Pearson states also that Canadian Tidningen originated as a result of the merger of two earlier Swedish-Canadian periodical publications, i.e., the church paper **Sions Vaktere**, published by Pastor **Svante Udden**, and the newspaper **Den Skandinaviske Canadiensaren**, published by "the original Swedish newspaper publisher, Immigration Agent and Colonizer" **Emmanuel Ohlen**. (2)

It is the history of the latter publication that explains, perhaps, why the 1892 volume of Canada Tidningen appeared as "Vol. VI". **Den Skandinaviske Canadiensaren**

saren began appearing in 1887. (3) Its "Volume VI" would therefore appear in 1892, the year in which it merged with **Sions Vaktere** to form **Canada Tidningen**. In the light of this, the marking of the 1892 issues of **Canada Tidningen** as "Vol. VI" would seem to indicate that its publishers considered their paper to be a continuation of **Den Skandinaviske Canadiensaren**, under a changed name. If this assumption is true, then **Sions Vaktere**, on which no other information is available to me, might, possibly, be younger than **Den Skandinaviske Canadiensaren**, and it was, therefore, not taken into consideration in numbering the 1892 volume of **Canada Tidningen**. □

(1) Helge V. Pearson, "Canada-Tidningen", in **The Multicultural Press in Manitoba** (Winnipeg, Man.: Canada Press Club, 1974), p. 86.

(2) Ibid.

(3) **The Canadian Newspaper Directory** (Montreal, Que.: A. McKim & Co., 1892), pp. 181, 240.

Mrs. Schoensigel, but we are unsure. Any information that your readers might know about **Birger Hoel** and his family will be greatly appreciated by **Borghild Jensen**. Thank you for any help you can give me.
Lester A. Ludwig
P.O. Box 134
Madison, Wis. 53701

My father, **Henrik Bertil Svardstol**, b. March 10, 1861, at Naustdal, Norway, came to America about 1894 and took the name **Olson**. Sister **Bertha**, brothers **Andrew** and **Christ**, lived in Polk and Sawyer counties, Wis. My mother, born **Anna Larina Eide**, January 6, 1877 at Stord, Norway, married my father at Dresser, Wis. on June 24, 1904 or 1905. Sisters **Barbru Drange** at Uggdalseiden, Lena at Dresser, Wis., and brothers **Ray** and **Ole** nearby.
Olaf H. Olson
916 Colorado Blvd.
Santa Rosa, Calif. 85405

I'm interested in locating the relatives of the following persons: **Andrew Dahl**, born around Lom in 1870s and came to San Luis Obispo, Calif. about 1905. — **Klaus** and **Martha Lied (Lee)**, born in Tomrefjord, Romsdal.

Continued on Page 8

DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?

In 1972 my brother and I compiled a 25-page genealogy of the Urseth-Torrison families, starting from around 1742, and who lived in Tromsø area in Nord-Norge. We did not find much on the Pederson paternal ancestors until I heard from a relative of ours on the maternal side of our family, **Ase Kvitle Kristiansen** of Brøstadbotn, Norway. Starting in circa 1746 the male succession was as follows: **Andreas Pedersen**

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By Elmer Kankkunen

A fairly large group of people, large by Edmonton standards at least, gathered at the Augustana Lutheran Church on Nov. 21 to hear Bishop Erkki Kansanako from Tampere, Finland.

Bishop Kansanako's message was one of assurance that the established or evangelical lutheran church has remained strong in spite of dropouts and attempted inroads by Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Jesus freaks, etc. Although attendance had dropped somewhat at churches, mass meetings have gained in popularity. 95% of the population still belong to the established church, while dropouts form the second largest group accounting for about 3%.

When asked whether news is either slanted or suppressed by the state owned television, he replied that news is not slanted at present although some items may be conveniently forgotten.

As is customary with many visitors or recent arrivals, Bishop Kansanako often used the phrase "here in America" when referring to Canada. Mrs. Kansanako was impressed by the vastness of this country and confessed to having some amusing problems with "Finnglish".

The Finnish Independence Day Ceremony held Dec. 6 at the Augustana Lutheran Church was also well

attended and proved to be an interesting occasion as all three speakers had obviously done their homework. We heard speeches by Pastor Rankinen, Keikki Sario, V. Rastas and a poetry recital by V. Kujala.

For some, the ceremony was a sincere moment to remember fallen comrades, sacrifices, hardships; for others an opportunity to indulge in some nationalistic flag waving. For many of us born in Canada it was a lesson in history resulting in mixed emotions.

This review of events reminds us that our forefathers who fought for independence or political beliefs were people with very strong convictions. As immigrants they transported their strong convictions, and in some instances, bitterness to this country. These strong feelings were often shunned by their children as being something foreign to our Canadian way of life. For this reason many of us have turned our backs to our Finnish heritage. Some have gone to the extreme of denying their Finnish background, thereby losing a portion of their own individual identity. Perhaps the so-called generation gap is narrow compared to some of the other gaps that exist between Finns in this country.

I was most impressed by the parallel presented by Pastor Rankinen of the little boy who envied the freedom enjoyed by his older brothers and sisters. He thought that he would be free when he reached their level of matur-

ity, however, when he became their age, he noticed that he still didn't have the additional freedom that his brothers and sisters now enjoyed as young adults. The same disappointments and frustrations reoccurred during the rest of his life span.

The parallel is similar to a nation's struggle for independence, every level of maturity has its own set of responsibilities and restraints combined with ever changing forms of dependence on others.

The present level of maturity achieved by Finland as a nation is probably best described by the term "Finlandization". There was some disagreement between the speakers about the interpretation of this new term recently coined by Mr. Kekkonen, President of Finland.

Some believe the term to suggest some sort of yielding or undermining of the Finnish national character or principles, others prefer to view it in a more positive light. Pastor Rankinen suggested that an example of this new policy is the fact that the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (S.A.L.T.) were recently held in Helsinki. In other words, Finland provided a neutral corner for the meeting of the major powers. Finland's role in peace keeping for the United Nations is similar to Canada's and it was perhaps symbolic that two of the young men in the audience were wearing their United Nations medals received for service in Cyprus.

Heikki Sario and friends provided their brand of canned music for the folks at the adult's "Pikku Joulu" Christmas party held Nov. 30 at the Scandinavian Centre. Such a good time was had by all that no one noticed the passage of time. We wish to extend our apologies to the caretaker for any inconvenience resulting from the late hour.

Albert Karvonen had to coax our youngsters extra hard to show their talents at the children's Christmas party held Dec. 8. With a little bit of preplanning and encouragement by the parents this event could be greatly improved.

Our next most important upcoming event is, of course, our annual meeting to be held at the Scandinavian Centre on Jan. 26. Attendance at club activities has increased during the past year. It's been a good year. Let's make the next one better yet. We still have a long way to go to approach or attain some of the goals and purposes for which the club was originally formed. For example, we talk of retaining our Finnish culture but what have we really accomplished in this regard? To ensure continued improvement and growth by all means use this opportunity to voice your opinions and help elect the executive of your choice. □

FINLAND NEWS

By Airi Langeste
MRS. SYLVI KEKKONEN DIES

The wife of Finland's President, Urho Kekkonen, passed away on Mon., Dec. 2, 1974. She was 74 years old at the time.

Sylvi Salome Kekkonen was born March 12, 1900 at Pieksamaki. Soon after her birth the family moved to Metsapirtti, where her father, Kauno Edward Uino, was a pastor. Later the family moved to Puumala, but she received her formal education and became a college graduate in Mikkeli in 1918. The next year she moved again, this time to Helsinki.

In 1926 Sylvi and Urho were married and two years later twin boys, Matti and Taneli, were born to them.

From the year 1956 on, Mrs. Kekkonen, as the President's wife, was the First Lady of Finland. In her time, she represented Finland as a hostess at countless state visits and her guests included many Royal families and other high ranking dignitaries from all over the world.

She was the protector and member of many charity organizations.

Sylvi was also well known as a writer. One of her books, "Amalia", which was published in 1958, has been translated into Swedish, German, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Estonian, Czechoslovakian and Romanian languages.

When it became known that Mrs. Kekkonen had died, the radio changed its programs, flags were lowered to half mast and Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa spoke on the radio about her.

President Urho Kekkonen cancelled the yearly Independence Day celebrations at the palace but attended the church service during the day of Dec. 6.

The funeral was held Dec. 9 in Helsinki with Archbishop Martti Simjoki officiating.

KING OF SWEDEN VISITS FINLAND

Karl XVI Gustaf, the young King of Sweden, arrived in Helsinki on Nov. 19, for his first official visit. He looked very distinguished dressed in an admiral's uniform as he disembarked from the deck of the destroyer, Halland, in Helsinki harbor.

President Urho Kekkonen was there to greet the honored guest with many members from the Parliament, including speaker of the house, Mr. V. J. Sukselainen, and Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and thousands of admirers who had arrived in spite of the very rainy weather.

Karl XVI Gustaf received a tremendous welcome from the crowds that had gathered

SKI NOTES
By E. Kankkunen

Good news for Nordic ski enthusiasts from Thunder Bay, Ont. Mount Norway, 7 miles from the city, is rapidly being developed into one of the major ski centres in North America. Jumps of 120 metres are possible on the larger hill, while the 70 metre hill has a critical limit of 90 metres. This jumping distance has only been exceeded at an Ironwood, Michigan, hill where jumps of 145 metres have been recorded. Future plans include increasing the number of downhill and slalom runs, building lighted cross-country trails, speed skating rinks, bobsled runs.

Last year, invitations for the position of jumping coach for the Canadian National Ski Team were sent out to ski federations of various countries. Applicants from Japan, Finland and Yugoslavia responded and Pentti Ranta from Finland was selected on the basis of his reputation and qualifications which included the ability to speak English fluently.

Pentti Ranta has coached such famous jumpers as Kauko Kayko who, 2 years ago, was considered the world's best by European sports writers. Incidentally, when Kauko learned of his coach's departure to Canada, he promptly came to join him in Thunder Bay.

Kauko's close friend, Kari Tuhkanen, ranked third or fourth best jumper in Finland, also decided to come along. This exodus of top jumping talent has created quite a stir among ski officials and fans in Finland. Both jumpers intend to settle permanently in Thunder Bay, Ont., and it is quite possible that we shall see them in action here in Devon during the Canada Winter Games in February. (Due to the lack of a suitable hill at Lethbridge, the ski jumping will be held at Devon.) Let's hope for some snow! □

both at the pier and also at the palace and many "Elakoon" could be heard, which in translation means, "Long Live The King".

After lunch at the palace the first day's program included a visit to the War Memorial at Hietaniemi and also the foreign diplomatic corps paid their respects to the King at the President's palace.

Later in the evening, President Kekkonen was the host at the formal gala dinner at the palace, where both the King and President made their formal speeches.

The second day was also spent in Helsinki and surrounding area while on the third day a helicopter trip was taken to Turku and Uusikaupunki. In the evening King Karl was host at the farewell dinner.

On Nov. 22, the King returned back to Stockholm on a commercial SAS flight. □

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NEWS FROM ANSGAR LUTHERAN

By Pastor H. N. Madsen

First of all, we should like to take this opportunity to say a hearty "Thank You" to all those, both young and old, who have been so willing to contribute their time and talents to make the festivities of the Christmas Season, the success that they were at Ansgar this year. It is always easy for us to make plans but those plans always include the participation by people for the enjoyment of and benefit for people. Therefore it is always so gratifying to have people respond, "Sure, I'll be glad to help."

Being that December was such a full month, our January agenda at Ansgar is a bit more on the relaxed side. Aside from our regular worship services and Sunday School, we have our usual monthly committee meetings, and our monthly Sunday evening fellowship on Jan. 26 to which all ladies are invited to bring a plate of something to go with our coffee. At this point in time we are not exactly sure of what our program will consist of, as there are several alternatives before us. However, we do invite all friends and acquaintances of Ansgar to come and join us. Even though the program is not always to everyone's taste, you may always be assured of good fellowship, and good coffee.

A NEW YEAR

What is a New Year? What is so special about it, and what is so different about it from the year just gone by. The latter question is of course one that cannot be answered until the new year comes to an end.

However, the first question can be dealt with, and should be dealt with right now, before the new year gets old. A new year is so special because it is like a field of new blown snow, without a mark upon it. It stretches before each of us as an untravelled pathway, an unknown and unknowable entity, an exciting adventure, the contents of which we can only guess. How long any one of us will enjoy this new year, only God knows, therefore it is of utmost importance that we make the most and the best out of the time which we have. This brings to mind a little verse that was often written in autographs in childhood days, it goes as follows: "Your lifetime lies before you, like a path of fallen snow, be careful how you tread it, for every step will show."

1975 has the possibility for each one of us that it is the year that we begin to come alive; alive to the possibilities before us to be caring, compassionate people, people who really did get something out of the message of Christmas, besides the crass materialism of buy this and buy that.

People who heard the angels' song that there can be peace on earth, goodwill toward men, if men will extend it. But none of this happens without the participation of people. People like you and me. People like the shepherds who saw the star, and responded by going over to Bethlehem to see this thing that had happened, and who then went and told of all that they had seen and heard.

1975 can become a historic year, if we will make it thus. It all depends upon our response to the message of Christmas. But the world has to date tried everything else, this year let's be different, let's try God's way, by dispensing peace instead of demanding it. □

Continued from Page 1

TOM AND VERA'S

attend. Helen (daughter) and Bruce Stetson and Roby (grandson) of Las Vegas, Nevada. Dennis (son) and Donna, grandson Mark and Terry and granddaughters Lori and Judy all of Calgary. Also seated at the head table was Miss Dorte Nielsen, a relative of the Kjearsgaard family who is visiting from Denmark. The only other members of the family not attending at the head table were the seven great-grandchildren.

Guests from out of town also included Mr. and Mrs. B. Larsen of Dawson Creek, B.C.; Mr. and Mrs. V. Nielsen of Fort St. John, B.C. and Mr. and Mrs. Vagn Jakobsen of Edgewater, B.C.

Mrs. Linda Pedersen read a poem written by her mother, Betty, which told of the fifty years of life together and its ups and downs Tom and Vera have experienced. Andy Kjarsgaard then read a poem written by Helen to her Mom and Dad. This poem told of the ups and downs experienced by Tom and Vera during Helen's lifetime to the present time.

Mr. Harvey Haugen, President of the Scandinavian Centre, spoke a few moments and presented Tom and Vera with a scroll-type plaque thanking them for their years of hard work and dedication to the Scandinavians and the Scandinavian Centre.

Mr. Claus Jacobsen, President of the Danish Society "Dania", spoke on behalf of the club to express gratitude to Tom and Vera for the unselfish dedication they have given to the Danish Society and all Danes.

Mrs. Inga Sondrup and Mr. Tage Aquist, representing guests, presented Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen with the gift of a beautiful color TV set, plus other gifts, including a tape recorder, a dinner set for 12, and a basket of fruit, wines, etc. The names of those

DANIA DOINGS



By Lili Nielsen

DANIA'S FIFTH WHIST-DRIVE of the season will be held Jan. 14 in the Dania Room of the Scandinavian Centre. Hope to see you all back in the new year.

Bikuben will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month and we hope to see you all on Jan. 13.

The Board of Directors have decided to have a membership night sometime in February at which time there will be a free dinner to every member. Membership cards must be presented at the door and advance tickets must be obtained from any of the board members. We shall have more information regarding this evening in the February issue of the paper. □

contributing were all typed on the ribbons flowing from a bow which decorated the gifts.

Pastor Holger Madsen also spoke briefly about the warmth and helpfulness everyone concerned has received from Tom and Vera.

Mr. Knut Holm-Petersen, Danish Consul, extended congratulations and spoke about the many contributions made by Tom and Vera to the Danish-Canadian community.

Mrs. H. Eskelson recited a very heartwarming poem she had composed for the occasion.

Mr. Carl Andersen added to the evening with a short talk and congratulations.

A highlight of the evening came when Mr. K. Sondrup, accompanied by Mrs. Holm-Pedersen on the piano, led the entire group in singing a song about Tom and Vera which had been composed especially for the occasion.

Flowers by Klondyke Gardens flanked the table and decorated the hall in a bright array of color.

A Danish "Kransacage", also on the head table, was made by Ruth Aquist and was a gift to Tom and Vera from "Bikuben".

Following the clearing of the tables, an evening of dancing was enjoyed to the music of Reuben Missal's Orchestra. To begin the dance, Tom and Vera danced the Anniversary Waltz to Vera's favorite tune, Edelweiss. During the latter half of this dance, the rest of the family members joined in.

The gala evening came to a close about 1:30 a.m. with everyone going home with a smile and warm memories of a grand couple, Thorvald and Vera Nielsen,

Ved Tom og Veras Guldbrællup

Melodi: Jens Vejmand

Vi er en flok forsamlet her
i et muntert lag
vi Tom og Vera hylder paa
deres store dag.
Vi vil nu se tilbage paa
tiden som svandt hen
og paa hvordan de netop blev
mangen danskers ven.

Se Tom han er jo Jyde af
den solide rod
og Vera Københavner og altid
mild og god,
de rejste ud fra Danmark,
det gave kun dagligt brød
de havde hørt om landet, som
med mælk og honning flød.

Saa kom de her til Westen i
dette vilde land
og satte bo paa prairien
vist i Saskatchewan
men vinden var lidt kølig og
vinteren lang og haard,
nej det var ikke særlig godt,
nu længere vest det gaar.

Det gælder nu Alberta, hvor
frugtbarhed er stor
og faar omsider foden der
under eget bord,
men det var ikke altid, der
mælk og honning flød
nej sommetider var det
smaat endog med dagligt
brød.

Nu børneflokkens vokser, de
tar' det med et smil
først var der Elsie, Betty
of saa kom Johnny til
og siden Helen, Dennis, vi
har dem alle her
af børnebørn er og en flok,
som de har særlig kær.

En farmers liv kan være
haardt, nu vil de ikke mer
nej lad os gaa til byen ind
og se hvad saa der sker
og Tom han er saa snild med
en hammer og en sav,
de finder nu, at det trods
alt lidt mer end brødet gav.

Og Veraaabner nu sit hjem
for mange danske mænd
der savnede en Moder, her
fandt de een igen,
hun hjalp dem glad og gerne
og styrked deres mod,
ja rygtet gaar, at der engang
endog et bryllup stod.

De kämped for alt nordisk,
for dansken dog isär
alt hvad er skandinavisk,
det staar dem særlig når
et centre blev der bygget og
Tom hjalp altid til
han er igen dets leder, han
stadig kan og vil.

Og Vera solgte blade og
Avon meget mer
og samled danske kvinder om
hende fler og fler
nu sælger hun kun rejser og
gør det ganske godt
og skal du ud paa tur igen,
du spørger Vera blot.

Ja saa vil vi da ønske til
lykke hver isär
og haaber i endnu maa faa
en lang og fredfyldt färd
tak for de gode minder og
hver en hjälpsom haand
en tak fra gamle venner for
gode venskabsbaand.

—Fr Venner



VERA and TOM cutting
their first wedding cake
on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary.

who deserve another 50
years of happy life together
with family and friends. □

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- DIRECTORS' REPORTS
- AUDITOR'S REPORT
- BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES AND REPORTS
- NEW BUSINESS
- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
- ELECTION OF AUDITOR AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- COFFEE AND CAKES

FINNISH ART IN CALGARY
 By Pirkko Karvonen

Two Finnish artists, Nana Rusk and Seija Stenvall from Helsinki, Finland, had a textile art exhibition at Graphic 8 Galleries Ltd. in Calgary this past summer.

The show consisted of 60 pieces in all—woven wall-hangings, batiks, table pieces, rugs, and textile goods. It was a rare show-

ing of modern Finnish hand-weaving art, an advanced fine art in Finland. The designs were lively and philosophical. There was a horse in pyjamas, a human family consisting of mother, father and unborn baby. One day butterfly in a traditional transparency technique using the most untraditional materials—unspun linen in pale blue, was a real break-

through expressing Seija's ideas and personal feelings. New visual experiences were brought about by using linen in a rya rug instead of wool that the Finnish tradition calls for. This hanging Nana was named "Clown". Other unusual materials that were used were copper wire, sisal and hemp.

Both artists are graduates from Kreeta Pohjaneimo College, a college that specializes in textile arts. Seija explained that although she and Nana worked separately on their designs, a lot of the dyeing and spinning of the yarns was quite often done jointly. The family bathtub was on weeks occupied by some dye materials.

The girls drew from Finnish handweaving tradition and advanced the art into its modern expressions—textural, tonal, sculptural, spacial—far beyond the levels of decorative functions. □

Continued from Page 5

DO YOU KNOW

Martha was born about 1890 and came with her father (Klaus) and mother to America around the turn of the century. They lived in or near Duluth, Minn. at that time. — Elmer Strand, born 1870s in Northern Norway and settled in Saskatchewan, Canada. Any information on these persons

Continued on Page 9

Cross-Country Skiers!

THE NORSEMAN

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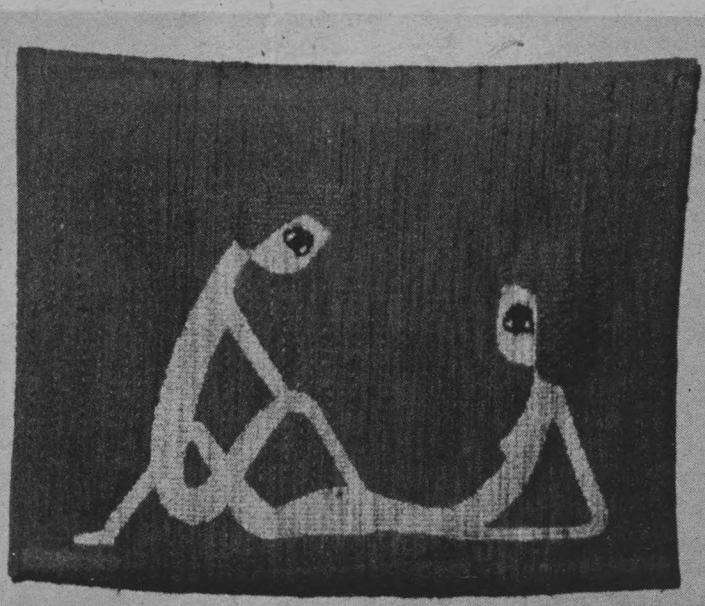
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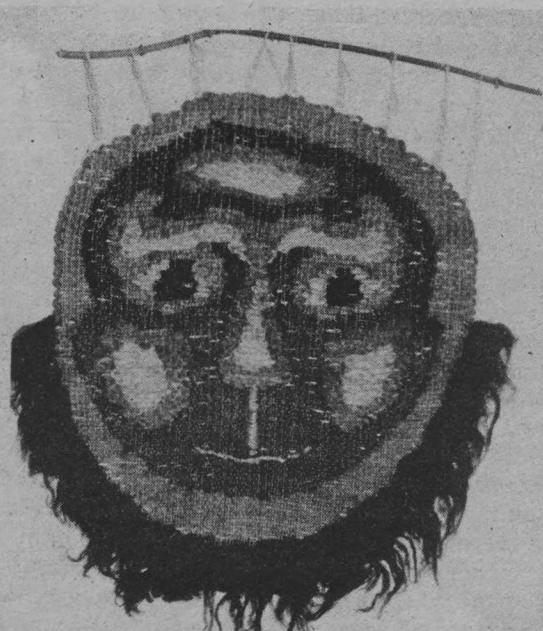
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Contemporary Finnish art. "Mask" by SEIJA STENVALL.

NORDSTJARNAN NEWS

By Sherry Havanka

The November meeting and wine and cheese party was held at the Ron Holmlund's on the 1st. New members initiated were Nettie Wollin and Mervyn and Gwen Abstreiter. Guests were Grand Lodge District Master Bert Johnson and wife, District Secretary Treasurer G. Dick, and Lloyd Eriksson.

The December meeting was held at Louis Thorsen's and there was quite a poor turnout due to the foggy evening.

There was a nomination and election of officers.

Preparations for the Christmas party were underway.

Local Lodge Bowling was set for March 9.

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DO YOU KNOW

or relatives would be appreciated.

Helge Lamo

5620 22nd Ave. S.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55417

I am a genealogist conducting research on the family pedigrees of some families who are of Norwegian descent. But our knowledge of their background is virtually nil. They are from North Dakota for the most part. Is there any Norwegian Genealogical and/or Historical Society in North Dakota that could be of some aid in our research?

One particular person whose ancestors we are attempting to trace is one Julia Anna Marie (Nelson) Johnson, born May 1, 1896 or 1897 in Rothsay, Minn. She died lately on July 3, 1974 in Indio, Calif. She had married one John Louis Johnson. All we know of

Julia Anna Marie Nelson is that her father, Nels Nelson, had come from Norway. Also, in 1889, one Alfie Syvertson was born in Bismarck, N.D. Her father, and probably her mother as well, came from Norway. John Patrick Schmal

615 Edgewood St.

Inglewood, Calif. 90302

My family moved to Minneapolis in 1913 from Tomahawk, Wis. Our home address was 3820 37th Ave. S. My father, Johannes Olsen Veland, emigrated to the U.S. in 1893. He was born in Lindas Parish, Norway on Dec. 18, 1866. He died on July 18, 1923, and is buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery. I was only thirteen when my father died so I never had a chance to ask him much about Norway or his life there.

My uncle was Harry (Haldor) Gusva Gravdahl. His original home was on 42nd Street and 41st Avenue. He was born March 2, 1881, in Gravdal, Norway (I think). He died on Oct. 13, 1956, and is also buried in Crystal

Get well wishes are extended to Wilma Stone who was in the hospital recently.

On the evening of Dec. 14 the Annual Christmas Party was held and it was a huge success. It began with the children saying their recitations, a humorous skit by the program committee, then dancing around the Christmas tree, the arriving of good old St. Nick and to end a very delightful evening a delicious potluck supper.

The same evening 40 year pins were presented to Buster Sjorlund and Ben Holmlund. Past Chairman pins were also presented to Henry Sjogren and Cliff Robins.

The next meeting will be held at the home of the Ben Holmlunds. □

Lake Cemetery. I believe that my mother's family came to the U.S. in 1892.

Norman A. Veland
9014 East Calle Kuehn
Tucson, Arizona 85715

I would like information on how to find Port of Entry when my great-grandparents came over from Norway. They came down the river through Canada, I believe, and came to Green Bay, Wis. This was about 1849 or 1850. Their names were Lars Kittleson Ness Nays and his wife Tonetta Gullicksdatter Knutson. I know their grandson Lawrence M. Nays and his wife Mary became members at Valley City, N.D. Lawrence is now dead, but his wife is still very active in the lodge. I am interested to know if the whole family came from Norway, or if it was just Lars and John.

Mrs. Morris E. Anderson
23 Montana St.
Glasgow, Mont. 59230

The family we are researching is Andrew Thorsen, born in 1848. He emigrated to America in 1872. He was a fisherman in Alesund and settled in St. Peter, Minn. He married Carrie Peterson in 1881. He located near Aberdeen, S.D. in 1880. His mother and one brother and three sisters emigrated also to America. His father's name was Thore. Andrew's one brother's name was Olaf B. Thorsen. His sisters' names were Marie, Susana, and Regina. We are not sure if the mother's name was Karen Christiansson or if Carrie Peterson and Karen Christiansson were one and the same person. We have the wedding license of Andrew and Carrie, and we have an old Norwegian Bible with the confirmation date of Karen Christiansson.

These are the only authentic documents we have. We do not even have a photo of Andrew Thorsen, but we have hand-written letters of his, written in Norwegian and English to members of the



Kitchen Corner

Even though the holidays are over our work in the kitchen never ends.

Here are some easy recipes to help you.

QUICK HAWAIIAN SALAD

1 cup Mandarin oranges, drained

1 cup pineapple tidbits

1 cup miniature marshmallows

1 cup sour cream

1 cup dessicated coconut

Mix together. Let set for a few hours.

Serve on a lettuce leaf.

GRAHAM WAFER DESSERT

1 1/2 cups crushed Graham wafers

Cover bottom of cake pan.

1 can cherry or blueberry pie filling

1 cup whipped cream

1 cup miniature marshmallows

Few chopped walnuts

Combine last four ingredients. Pour over Graham wafers and set in fridge.

If you are tired of turkey and ham, try this casserole.

PORK CHOPS CASSEROLE

6 med. pork chops

Dip these in beaten egg and cracker crumbs and brown in hot fat.

SAUCE

1 can tomato juice or 1/2 can tomato soup and 1/2 cup water

1/4 cup vinegar

1/2 tsp. allspice

1/2 tsp. cloves

family while he was away from home, which was a farm in Brown County in South Dakota. Later in life, the name was changed to Thorson. Andrew was a grade contractor for the Great Northern Railway and active in Dakota Territory Legislature. The missing links that we were looking for while searching the State Archives in Trondheim, etc., were the descendants of Andrew Thorson's parents, who did not leave Norway and would still be there and we could indeed find where Thor was buried or lived or something.

Theodore Thorson of Aberdeen, S. D. (now deceased) was a member of that chapter of The Sons of Norway. We now have an Andrew Thorson, eight years old and a Ted Thorson four years old in our present generation. We'd like to gather some data together for them to keep and to use when they, too, go to Norway someday.

Marvin A. Thorson
46 Malaga St.
Tustin, Calif. 92680

1/2 cup brown sugar

Boil for 3 minutes. Place chops in a casserole dish. Pour sauce over. Cover and bake one hour.

ORANGE PRUNES

1 lb. dried prunes

2 small cinnamon sticks

1 orange, thinly sliced

1/4 cup brown sugar

Cover the prunes with water. Add the cinnamon; cover and simmer 20 mins. Add the orange slices and brown sugar; continue cooking about 8 mins. longer or until orange is tender. Chill.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: BETTER BREAKFASTS

One area in which every family can improve is in food planning and preparation for the first meal of the day. This early morning meal can be a favorite if individual likes and dislikes are considered. Few people are satisfied day in and day out with a fried-egg-and-toast breakfast. There is no law against using any nourishing food at this time of day. No one relishes a rich chocolate sundae upon arising, but that doesn't preclude a small scoop of vanilla ice cream in an eggnog for that teenage girl who is always on the run. Many is the time an eggnog with two eggs guarantees nourishment for a high school daughter before leaving for school. She never

realizes how rewarding this energy generating breakfast is. Meat, soup, cheese, and vegetables can all be included in the breakfast menu. This is the actual breaking of a twelve-hour fast, and the body needs replenishing.

Let us plan interesting, nutritious breakfasts for early - day "get - going" power.

CHEESE BAKED EGG CUPS

6 slices bacon

4 slices toast

Melted butter

4 eggs

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Partially fry the bacon. Trim the toast into rounds to fit bottoms of muffin cups. Brush with melted butter. Line sides of each muffin cup with 1 1/2 strips bacon. Break eggs, one at a time, into custard cup and slip into toast ring; season with salt and pepper. Top each egg with 2 tbsp. cheese. Bake in a 325° oven for about 20 minutes or to the desired firmness. Remove from pan carefully with spatula; serve at once.

SCANDINAVIAN RECIPE FOR JANUARY

LIFRARPYLSA (Liver Sausage)

By Edna Garnett

2 1/2 lbs. liver, ground

1 lb. kidney suet, chopped

1 cup milk

1 tbsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

1 cup fine rolled oats

1/2 cup wholewheat flour

2 cups graham flour

Mix Well.

Make cotton bags 4"x8". Wet and fill with mixture, leaving no air space. Tie tops securely. Drop bags in boiling water with 2 tbsp. salt and boil for 2 hours. Serve sliced, either hot or cold.

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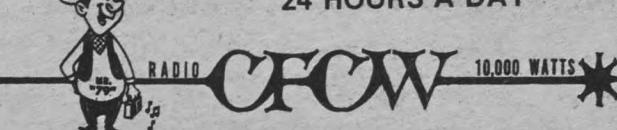
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Continued from Page 1

PAST PRESIDENTS'

some past events that took place even before the Centre was built.

Later we all had the pleasure of watching some films about the Centre activities, courtesy of **Sig Sorenson**. Remember those early Exhibition parades? How about the Scandinavian Centre picnics at Elk Island Park? The building of the Centre and the opening ceremonies. Those were the many scenes that we reminisced over during that evening.

It was felt that this kind of gathering should take place more often. Mr. **Haugen** suggested that a Past Directors Club be formed and everyone welcomed the idea unanimously electing **Sig Sorenson** as the president of the club. Others elected to serve on the executive were: **Don Johnson**, Vice-President; **Linnea Lodge**, Secretary; **Len Petersson**, Treasurer; **Gunnar Thorvaldson**, Social Convener.

The forming of the Past Directors Club will, of course, bring new life to the Centre with their meetings, etc. All in all, the evening of Nov. 20 was very successful. Hope to see such an evening again next year. □

**OLD YEAR,
NEW YEAR**

Norma Wrathall

Year's end to year's end,
Then the beginning:
Old Year to New
Night to dawn thinning.

Holly and mistletoe
Threaded with bliss;
Love's golden circlet
Sealed with a kiss.

So spins our time: loss,
Laughter, and tears,
Mingled like leaves
In the wreath of the years.

Thorns will prevail, but
Hope dulls their pain;
Stars light the dark
Until New Day again.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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Continued from Page 3

MY TRIP

Just a silly idea, but it gives me something to look at and bring back memories when I get old, or should we say, older—old I am already.

There are many Scandinavians in Victoria, and on the island as a whole. One couple I met came from the same area in Norway as myself, and they have lived in Victoria since they arrived in Canada seventeen years ago. They certainly picked a nice spot and they have had no hardships such as the prairie winter.

A young man from the record distributing company took us for a ride to see some of the sights, among other things we saw Mile Zero on the Trans-Canada Highway, and the scenery in Victoria and the surrounding area is fantastically beautiful. There is a lot to see in Victoria, such as museums, undersea gardens and so on, but we were there on business and didn't have too much time. But we did go to see the British Columbia Maritime Museum and one of the finest items was a Bofors anti-aircraft gun. The Swedes stayed out of the Second World War, but they sure made an outstanding weapon, and maybe that was one of the reasons why they did stay out.

When we boarded the ferry to go back to Vancouver again, we knew we had left one of Canada's beauty spots behind, but then, most people agree all British Columbia is beautiful.

I stayed in Surrey, and it is just lousy with Scandinavians. We went a couple of times to eat at a place called Scandinavia House. The proprietor is **Sven Svensk**, and he has been in Canada only two years and he has two restaurants already. I was thinking of myself, being in this country twenty-five years and still have nothing to show for it. Scandinavia House featured Canadian and Scandinavian food, buffet style, and judging by the long line of people standing waiting for a table, must have been immensely

popular. The restaurant business seemed good, but talking to **Sven**, he told me he had been in it all his life and that is one of the reasons he is a success where others might fail.

Gunnar Warolin, editor of the Norwegian newspaper, **Norrøna**, runs the other Scandinavia House across the river in Port Coquitlam, and he must be one of the busiest men around. I tried off and on about four days before I finally got hold of him on the phone. Even so, he took time off to come and see me at one of my record promotions, and it sure was "hyggelig" to meet him again. He is also an old hand at the restaurant business. He told me one time that he used to work at Rosekjeller'n in Oslo.

Some people say that to run a restaurant is easy, and that they could do it blindfolded with their hands tied behind their back, so to speak. Such an attitude is apt to bring failure. Instead, it involves a lot of work and knowledge, and any get-rich-quick scheme won't do.

I also went to see my good friend, **Magnus Alm**, born in Jamtland, Sweden. He is now 78 years old and still going strong. He gave me a copy of a brand new long playing record he had manufactured privately featuring many of his favorite accordion numbers. **Magnus** told me this was a final effort to have something for people to remember him by. But I know there is lots left in him yet, and when he came to one of my promotions, all dressed up mod, he looked much, much younger than he is. **Magnus** said in parting that he has a bed for me anytime I decide to go to Vancouver again, and a friend in need is a friend indeed, and that is what **Magnus** and **Hildegard** are.

I found out that the editor of the **Swedish Press**, whom I met a year ago, had been beaten up in his office one night when he was working late alone, so badly that the paper stopped for awhile, but he is now getting better. Maybe Vancouver is getting too big?

The record business is a touchy business. A record can be a hit today and forgotten tomorrow, or it might not sell at all today, and sell like hotcakes tomorrow. If you are a distributor, you have to know what to order and when. It is often too late to order a record after it has become a hit—they cannot be pressed fast enough to meet the demand. It is just like making waffles—you can only make them so fast. Even with the new Norwegian made electric waffleiron I bought at **Gunnar's Scandinavian Food** in New Westminster it takes time. But now I have a feeling I am straying away from the main story.

Back to the record

business—the thing is to have the right product at the right time, and this is often difficult to accomplish, and can be hard on the nerves at times, with people screaming for something you haven't got. And it can be just as bad if you have something and people don't want it. But most of the time the record people don't get excited. One man I know in the business never seems to worry. If someone told him that the moon just fell out of the sky and landed in Moosomin, Sask., he would say: Is that so? without raising his voice even a quarter note, even if the story turned out to be true. If he ever gets out of the record business, he could always be a Russian hockey coach.

Many people ask me at my promotions: Which is your favorite piece of music? In the first place, that is a hard question to answer, and secondly, it is irrelevant what I like, what matters is: What does the public like? It is hard to sell something nobody wants, and it is no use trying to convert them to like what I happen to like. For instance, I like some special accordion compositions and many of them don't appeal to the average music lover. In other words, more people like "Life in the Finland Woods" more than, say for instance, an accordion concert arrangement of **Hubay's Hejre Kati**, and we have to live with the fact that it is so.

The German composer, **Paul Hindemith** said: "There are only twelve tones. You must treat them carefully." When a person stops to think about the great output of music nowadays, what with radio, TV, stereos, tape decks, and more leisure time for listening, one wonders what can be done with so few notes, and I don't think everybody is following Hindemith's advice and treating them carefully.

The famous Swedish psychologist, **Carl Seashore** (it used to be **Sjostrand**), has many great sayings about music. He says: "Music is essentially a play upon feeling with feeling." If a person was able to take full advantage of the wisdom in this statement, he would come a long way. He also says: "As is the intelligence of a man, so is his music. If he is in a school for feeble-minded, his music may be spontaneous and appealing to a high degree; but it will, nevertheless, be feeble-minded. If it is the expression of the philosophical and highly trained composer or conductor, it will be a thought creation whether or not it has the more elemental musical appeals which reach the masses." Most commercial music is in the happy medium between the extremes mentioned here.

As usual, I stayed at **Lew** and **Doreen's** place in Surrey

and they live in beautiful surroundings. They even have three ponies in the back yard. One is not really a pony, but an Icelandic horse about thirteen years old, and this is one of the hardest breeds of horses around, but small in size. By sheer coincidence, **Lew** had his birthday on the same day this year as last year when I was out there, and this called for a little gathering of friends.

And now a few words about parties in general. There is always somebody who is the life of the party, or at least he thinks he is, and that the party could not get along without him (not very often a her), and he firmly believes that if he was quiet even a few seconds would spoil the whole evening. He tells one joke after the other, he laughs at his own jokes, even if no-one else does, and he repeats the same joke every half hour or so. In other words: He is the type about whom you would say: "There is one at every party."

A party might also have a story teller. He doesn't tell a story roughly as it is, he tells it exactly as it is. He goes into the smallest detail, and sometimes he gets sidetracked, so he has two stories going at the same time, sometimes he might also get into a third story. But he never loses track of the main one. He is usually also authoritative. Nobody speaks when he is talking, or try to correct him when they think he is wrong. All this takes time, and he is another guy about whom you could say: "There is one at every party."

So one day it was time for me to head for home again, and this time I travelled by train. The Norwegian author, **Aasmund Vinje**, wrote a book called "**Ferdamirni**" (Travel Memories) about a trip from Oslo to Trondheim in 1860. There he says that some people think "travelling by rail is always boring, always the same". At that time there was only one railway in Norway — from Oslo to Eidsvoll, a distance equal to about from Edmonton to Vegreville. The speed must have been slow if people got bored on such a short trip.

The trip by train between Edmonton and Vancouver is not boring, there is so much to see. At this time of the year, going west we didn't see the Rocky Mountains because of the darkness. By the time we got to Kamloops we could see some mountains, if we can use that name. **Vinje** would probably call that kind of mountain, "nut" (pronounced "newt").

By the way, I believe the Norwegian language might have more words and expressions describing mountains and hills, presumably because Norway is a

Continued on Page 11

Soren Kierkegaard vs The State Church

By Holger N. Madsen

(In view of the recent TV series, "A Third Testament", featuring Malcolm Muggeridge discussing the search for God of six prominent personalities, including Soren Kierkegaard, I thought it might be of interest to the readers of The Scandinavian Centre News who are from Danish stock to have a bit more information on the life of this important Dane. Therefore I submit this short paper written some years ago on Kierkegaard's confrontation with the Danish State Church. —H.N.M.)

Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, whose entire life was cast in a setting of outward confusion and prophetic clarity, was born on May 5, 1813, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was the seventh and youngest child of Michael Kierkegaard who was, at the time of Soren's birth only fifty-six years old and already retired from business. He had amassed an ample fortune from his clothing store and was now settled down in comfortable luxury in a house on New Market St. Anne Sorensdatter Lund, Soren's

Continued from Page 10

MY TRIP

mountainous country, while England is not. In the same vein, the Eskimo languages are supposed to have the most words describing snow and ice, because they are right in it all the time.

When we enter the Fraser Valley from the east, we see the mighty Fraser River. To be honest, in the beginning it doesn't seem any mightier than the mighty Surna River, the little old river at home on Nordmore, Norway, but of course, the Fraser gets much bigger as it approaches Vancouver.

There are lots of tunnels in the Fraser Canyon. They are a hindrance to sightseeing and from the sightseer's point of view, should be prohibited and abandoned. Sometimes it looks as if we are driving dangerously close to the edge, but since we are going by rail, it is hard to blame the driver. Going east we see the Rockies because we get there bright and early in the morning.

Not much happens on a train. There is an odd big shot trying to harass the staff a bit, but mostly it is peaceful.

After about twenty-two hours I am back in Edmonton. The city looks much different from the train—we are travelling in areas automobiles usually don't go.

The train was on time. My boy, Ed, picked me up at the station and the trip out west was all over. □

mother, had been a servant in the house of Michael Kierkegaard when his first wife died childless. Without waiting for the customary year of mourning to elapse, Michael married her shortly after his first wife's death. Their first child was born a few months after the marriage. For this incontinence Michael could never forgive himself.(1)

The home life of Soren was, however, one of strict discipline to church and religion; everyone labored under a sense of sin and guilt. Upon learning of his father's sexual excess, (the great earthquake), (2) Soren's thinking and devotion, both to his father and to God, were greatly disrupted. At an early age Soren Kierkegaard realized that he was not like other children. He was a very nervous child, and tended to be deeply melancholic.

At the age of seventeen Soren entered Copenhagen University as a theological student, but he was never ordained. He became engaged at this time to Regina Olsen, a girl whom he had wooed and won from another suitor. Immediately after presenting her with the ring he realized that he had done the wrong thing. God, he felt, had not meant him to enjoy the ethical bliss of married life. So in order to clear his lover's name of any slander, he set himself to the arduous task of proving to the populace at large that he was unworthy of so fair a maiden. This he attempted to do by a series of boisterous appearances in the various night spots. Regina saw through his ruse, but after awhile belligerently condescended to break off the engagement. (3)

When the break was an accomplished fact, Kierkegaard wrote in his Journal: Either you plunge into wild dissipation, or into absolute religiousness. (4)

Kierkegaard chose the latter, but he also chose to be an author. His first work which appeared in 1843 was significantly entitled *Either/Or*; this was also the largest book he ever wrote. "Kierkegaard's works amount to forty books with an average of five hundred pages each." (5) "Three hard hitting books written from 1850-1852: *Training in Christianity, For Self-Examination, and Judge For Yourselves*, championed Kierkegaard's version of undiluted Christianity." (6)

(1) Walter Lowrie, *Kierkegaard*, p. 19.
(2) William Hubben, *Four Prophets of Our Destiny*, p. 7.

(3) Eduard Geismar, *Lectures on the Religious Thought of Soren Kierkegaard*, p. 4.
(4) Peter P. Rohde, *Soren Kierkegaard, The Danish Philosopher*, p. 8.
(5) "Footprints on the Sands of Time", *The Ansgar Lutheran*, XXVIII (November 7, 1955), 1.

(6) James Collins, *The Mind of Kierkegaard*, p. 16.

In his work, *Training in Christianity*, he scathingly exposes the fallacy of the Church triumphant in the Christian country, which in this case was Denmark. (7) To mention all of Kierkegaard's works would take several pages.

I would like to note at this point that Kierkegaard's literary works are not so much like a stairway with numerous steps as they are like a chain consisting of many links. After reading a portion of this man's writings it becomes more and more apparent to me that to understand Soren Kierkegaard fully one would have to inspect thoroughly every link of the chain to properly evaluate its strength.

Through the lifetime of this "philosophical Dane and great religious thinker" (8) there occurred many things worth recounting. If his writings had not been in a minor language, his fame would have been comparable to that of Carlyle, Nietzsche, and Dostoveski. (9)

His influence helped to stir Karl Barth into his major creative work. Emil Brunner also gained perspectives for his own theology from the writings of Kierkegaard. (10)

Shortly before his death in 1855 Soren Kierkegaard launched an attack on the State Church of Denmark that shook the complacency of organized Christianity into a rude awakening. The attacks appeared in the publication of the little journal called *The Instant*, which appeared in nine issues. The tenth was unpublished at the time of his death but was ready to be printed.

The melancholic background of Soren Kierkegaard, combined with ill health and a lonely life, brought to the fore in his mind the fact that Christianity in its truest sense can be experienced only through suffering. (11)

He saw Christianity everywhere as sterile, soft, and passionless. By the standards existing then, everyone was classed as a Christian who attended church. To him, true Christians (of whom there were few), must progress through three stages of experience: the esthetic, the ethical, and the religious. Only through suffering (which to him was the essence of Christianity) and inward struggle can an individual advance to the "true Christian". (12) He stated his problem in this way:

...What I have constantly aimed at is to get this problem stated (before God and man, if I may say so): Can one be a

(7) Johannes Hohlenberg, *Soren Kierkegaard*, p. 206.
(8) Bernard Ramm, "Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish Time-Bomb", *The Ansgar Lutheran*, XXXII (January 12, 1959), 1.
(9) "Great Dane, A Portrait", *Time*, XXXVI (December 9, 1940), 87.
(10) Ramm, op. cit., p. 9.
(11) Lowrie, op. cit., p. 538.
(12) Time, op. cit., pp. 87-88.

Christian without being a disciple? (13)

Kierkegaard had his attack on the church clearly outlined several months before it was published. His hesitancy was not due to any doubt in his mind that he was doing the right thing, but he knew that in order to get to the root of the trouble, he must begin his attack on the clergy. This meant a direct slap at Bishop Mynster who was the head of the church in Denmark. (14) Much as he was against the Bishop's ways of running things, he felt that out of respect he could not openly denounce him. Bishop Mynster had for many years been his father's priest, and Kierkegaard himself had dutifully read or heard one of Mynster's sermons every Sunday since he could remember. But this did not stop his sharp criticisms of him. To Soren Kierkegaard, Mynster was a good preacher but a poor dialectician. (15) His opinions of the Bishop's preaching were stated in this way:

There is among us a right reverend old man, the foremost ecclesiast of this church. That which he and his 'preaching' have wanted is just what I want, only a tone stronger. (16)

It was not until after Bishop Mynster's death, followed by the installation of Martensen as primate of the church, that Soren Kierkegaard openly revealed his sentiments. (17) He felt that if he had begun his attack earlier, it would have placed in jeopardy Martensen's probability of becoming head of the church.

According to Kierkegaard's way of thinking, Mynster had been a real enemy of Christ and His teachings, because the demands that Christ made and the method in which these demands were met by the state church were worlds apart. Kierkegaard felt that

(13) Lowrie, loc. cit. p. 538.
(14) Hubben, op. cit., p. 14.
(15) Hohlenberg, op. cit., pp. 217-218.
(16) Soren Kierkegaard, *For Self-Examination*, p. 17.
(17) Hohlenberg, op. cit., p. 212.
(18) Hubben, op. cit., pp. 14-15.

it was his responsibility as a God-fearing man to examine the faith of so-called Christians in Denmark. This he proceeded to do in much the same manner as an auditor whose job it is to detect any and all errors and false entries. (19)

Kierkegaard's attacks made no reference to social conditions or to scientific progress which was later to become another source of religious malcontents. He was a conservative in politics and theology. His private war was exclusively dedicated by his sense of religious honesty. He felt divinely elected to fulfill a most disagreeable but necessary task, apostolic in its mission but shocking to his fellow Christians. (20)

In his own words Kierkegaard states his position quite clearly when he says:

The task of an apostle is to spread Christianity, to win men to it. My task is to liberate men from the conceit that they are Christians—and yet I too am serving Christianity. (21)

The first error he pointed out was to the clergy as a whole. He began by saying, "Much of the preaching done by most of the priests is so spiritless that it can't even be classified as sin." (22)

In Kierkegaard's opinion, the security which the priests of the church enjoyed by being classed as civil servants, made them lose all incentive to be seekers after the true faith which Christ preached. He maintained that the only security which the disciples of Jesus had was the fact that they were serving a living God. (23) The disciples found their security in love for the Word and the preaching thereof,

(19) Lowrie, op. cit., p. 558.
(20) Hubben, op. cit., p. 19.
(21) Lowrie, op. cit., p. 557.
(22) Soren Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*, p. 169.
(23) Hubben, op. cit., p. 17.

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KIERKEGAARD

and they were working, yes, striving for something in which the reward was eternal. That to Kierkegaard was the true version of a priest. He challenged the priests of the state church who lived a life of ease when he said: (24)

A priest surely ought to be a believer. And think what is a believer. A believer is surely a lover, yea, of all lovers the most in love. (25)

Kierkegaard believed firmly that a priest should preach the Christianity that is found in the New Testament. By this he meant that not only should the love of God be spoken of from the pulpit, but also the judgment of God against sin. He wanted first to arouse the clergy to realize that they must emphasize the Word of God as it is written, not as they would like it to be written. (26) He explained his point thus:

The gospel was not some neatly packaged philosophy which a well educated man could heartily accept, but it was an absurdity, an offense, a paradox. Rather than concurring with man's mind it shocked it. This is not disadvantage, but the very striking power of the gospel. (27)

In a further attack on the slovenly attitude of the priests toward the gospel he says:

But this is just the way Christianity is talked about by 'believing priests'. They either 'defend' Christianity or they translate it into 'reasons'—if they are not at the same time dabbling in 'comprehending' it speculatively. (28)

From his barrage on the clergy, Kierkegaard went on to lay much of the blame for complacent Christianity on the doorstep of the State. The Lutheran Church was the State operated church, which instituted compulsory religious training in all the schools. (29)

Kierkegaard vigorously opposed the doctrine of a state church. To be born a Dane automatically made one a Christian! It was effortless—to be a Dane is to be a member of the state church which is to be a Christian! But Kierkegaard saw how clearly this contradicted the New Testament teachings of the 'difficulty' of being a Christian—the forsaking of all things, the carrying of a cross, the being cast

(24) Alexander Dru, *The Journals of Soren Kierkegaard*, p. 402.
 (25) Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*, p. 167.
 (26) Martin J. Heinecken, *The Moment Before God*, pp. 3-4.
 (27) Ramm, loc. cit.
 (28) Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*, p. 169.
 (29) Hubben, op. cit., p. 16.

into prison, the being hated by one's own flesh and blood.

Our Lord spoke of the 'narrow' gate, but the state church practice in Denmark made the gate as wide as all of Denmark! A state church which includes 'everybody', and a gospel which calls few to live a life of suffering and sacrifice, are incompatible. (30)

What Kierkegaard saw was a church that had joined forces with the state, and in doing so had acquired a large membership, but had lost the principal idea of Christianity which is sincere dedication of the individual to God. (31) To him (Kierkegaard) the present state church was merely a mass of nominal Christians whose only real reason for church membership was the fact that they were born into it. (32)

The main purpose of Kierkegaard's attack upon this, the sleepy Dane church", (33) was to awaken his fellow-men to the fact that according to the New Testament Christianity no man, Dane or otherwise, can be born into salvation. He was trying to show them that God's Word can only become alive and meaningful to those who are conscious of their sin and guilt. (34) Kierkegaard maintained that the affairs of the church were dominated by the state, whereas the affairs of the state should have been governed by the church and its influence. (35)

The sad thing about the state church is that it has watered down the teachings of Christ to become a sort of police ordinance. It (the church) no longer represents a protesting, suffering minority... (36)

After his cutting remarks against the clergy and the church, Kierkegaard widened his attack to include all of the present-day Christianity as a whole. He felt that this was the task to which God had destined him, and he would shoulder this responsibility as best he could, even if it meant death. (37) This he points out quite vividly when he says:

... before there can be any question of its (true Christianity) being restored again, 'first a poet's heart must break, and this poet am I—these words of mine about myself are only too true... Denmark has need of a dead man. (38)

Soren Kierkegaard maintained that the profuse and

(30) Ramm, loc. cit.
 (31) Hubben, op. cit., p. 15.
 (32) H. V. Martin, *Kierkegaard, the Melancholy Dane*, pp. 105-106.

(33) This is a phrase which has often fallen upon my ears as I have listened to conversations of Danish immigrants, as they compared the Lutheran church in America with that of Denmark.

(34) Martin, op. cit., p. 106.
 (35) Hubben, op. cit., p. 14.
 (36) Ibid., p. 18.
 (37) Lowrie, op. cit., pp. 556-557.
 (38) Ibid., p. 556.

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and was aware of the comfort of the Holy Ghost. This, however, would not make him any more of a mystic than it would many other Christians. (47)

But as Kierkegaard states, in the case of Christians' relation to God:

The Christian will always be in the wrong before God, because between God and man there is an infinite, yawning, qualitative difference. (48)

In this manner would I describe Kierkegaard's "otherness", instead of calling it mysticism. For between the mind of this brilliant man and the capacity of the minds of men who try to defame his works, there is also an "infinite, qualitative, yawning difference".

The attacks of Kierkegaard's were heartily welcomed by the free-thinkers, and especially by the sects. Martensen executed a feeble attempt to reply to these onslaughts, but when no comments were made about his attempt, he thought it more befitting his dignity to remain silent. As for the remainder of the clergy, they

were too uneducated in Soren Kierkegaard's other writings to have even an inkling as to what to say, so they spoke their minds—an audible silence. (49)

In his last violent polemic Kierkegaard charged: 'We are much

too interested in ourselves, our families, our institutions, our programs, our individualities, and our herd instincts, to hear the voice of an unimpressive Man, really the God-Man, who calls us to follow on the lonely road of suffering.' Kierkegaard was an extremist of course. So was Jesus. (50)

(50) W. T. Riviere, "Introducing Kierkegaard", *Christian Century*, LVI (September 27, 1939), 1166.

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(39) Ibid., p. 537.
 (40) Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*, pp. 191-192.
 (41) Ibid., p. 155.
 (42) Ibid., pp. 212-213.
 (43) Lowrie, loc. cit.
 (44) Geismar, op. cit., p. 82.
 (45) Martin, op. cit., p. 112.
 (46) Ramm, op. cit., p. 13.

(47) Lowrie, op. cit., p. 562.
 (48) Hubben, op. cit., p. 32.
 (49) Lowrie, op. cit., p. 570.